

**PARK COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2010-2011**

The Trumbull Park Commission and Department are responsible for the care, management and control of all parks and grounds used for park and recreational purposes and all structures thereon. Together, we work in conjunction with all other municipal departments predominately with Public Works, Education, Recreation and Health, as well as with the athletic leagues within our community, to maintain and enhance our beautiful park and recreational facilities.

**AN OVER-VIEW OF OUR TRUMBULL PARK LAND FACILITIES FOLLOWS:**

**Abraham Nichols Park/Wood's Estate (13.8 acres)**

Orchard

Gardens, as well as a Community Planting Garden

Field (Wedding) area –Small Lavatory

Each year the beautiful orchard is pruned and sprayed.

The Gilbert Standley Orchard field-area continues to be utilized by fee for wedding receptions.

- **Community garden plots are assigned through the Department of Public Works. Gardens were expanded by six new plots this year. In Addition, the entire garden area has a new post and rail fence surrounding this entire garden; funded in part by Unilever and Sun Products with installation by employee volunteers.**

**Aldo Memorial Park (Westwind Road) (7.0 acres)**

Neighborhood natural meadow area.

Field is currently maintained as a seasonally-cut field.

**Robert G. Beach Memorial Park (331.0 acres)**

Swimming Pool – Graduated end for youngsters (350 person capacity)

Beach Pool Sprinkler Park

Tot Lot

Lavatory Facility

Monument Circle

Small Ice Skating pond at Circle

Hiking Trails

Scout Land Camping Site

**Davidow Park (15.2 acres)**

Currently undeveloped

Contiguous to Joan Estates Tot Lot

**Great Oak Park (69.9 acres)**

Undeveloped woodland parcel purchased in the late 60's with federal land state funding.  
We encourage Scout Projects to keep our woodland trails cleared as well as provide shelters for wildlife.

The Park Commission has agreed with the general concept of a Trail System for Great Oak Park and would simply recreate and open the existing trail system.

- **The first section of the new trail system was completed in the fall. It's a 500 foot long floating boardwalk over the wetland pond in the northern section. Trail now leads from the Dayton Road side of the trail and crosses over the brook to the Great Oak Tree itself.**

**Indian Ledge Park (104.6 acres)**

Regulation size lighted softball field  
BMX Racing Track  
Two Multi-Purpose Fields  
Amphitheatre Stage, with full Band Shell cover  
Sledding Hill  
Bocce Courts  
Woodland roadway  
Community Playground w/picnic area  
Lavatories  
Water-Spray Lot and lower level Lavatory  
Radio control track, above the current BMX track  
Artificial turf field affording four-season field play for soccer and lacrosse.  
Indian Ledge converted barn houses our week-end Youth Drop-In Center.  
Teen Youth Center- Utilized every weekday evening as well as for weekend events.  
The Trumbull Dog Park  
This most utilized park is also host location for the Town's annual summer concert and Fallen Heroes Recognition Event.

- **Additional paving installed to the rear of the Barn Youth Center for handicap parking.**
- **Annual BMX Nationals Tournament was held in July.**
- **The Annual Town Concert was held in September and was most successful with the largest attendance yet and enjoyed by all.**

**Island Brook Park (47.0 acres)**

Wildlife Pond  
Multi use ball field complex  
Tot Lot Playground  
Tennis Courts  
Basketball Court

**Kaatz Pond Park ( 17.5 acres)**

State Stocked Youth Fishing Pond  
Veterans Center

- **Scout and Youth Organizations Fishing Derbies are preferably scheduled at the Kaatz Pond.**

**Kaechele Property Soccer Fields Complex on Madison Avenue. (12.23 acres)**

The Park Commission determined that there should be only one Recreational Soccer Program and one Travel Soccer Program recognized for scheduling within the Trumbull Park System and for the use of the Building at Kaechele Park and designated the American Youth Soccer Organization and the Trumbull United Soccer Organization as those programs approved for scheduling.

**Long Hill Green (0.1 acre)**

Shared maintenance with Long Hill Green Association  
Park Benches and Walkways  
Location for Summer Farmers Market

**Middlebrooks Park (13.7 acres) - Contiguous to school property.**

**Mischee Brook Park (16.6 acres)**

Hiking Paths

- **A temporary service road was installed for sewer construction. The stream bed eroded and water ran over the service road twice which was remedied.**

**Nothnagle Memorial Field** (4.0 acres)

Little League size ball field  
Two Tennis Courts

**Old Mine Park** (Historic Mine Area Dedication) (72.1 acres)

Two Pavilions and Picnic Area  
Meadow multi-purpose field  
Natural River – Walk Bridge  
Hiking Trails  
Lavatory

Scouting activities continue to be conducted at this location.

Cub Scout Pack 468 and the Daniels Farm School PTA Fathers Club conduct their annual family overnight campouts at this location.

Our two pavilions and picnic areas are booked from early spring through fall.

Phoebe Meadow is available for field sports scheduling.

The Trumbull Counseling Center is assigned to the Old Mine Park building.

- **We successfully received a grant covering the costs for a replacement vehicle bridge at Old Mine Park. The project has gone out to bid. Old Mine Footbridge was re-decked and new side ramps built.**
- **The main pond basin has been dredged to its original depth as well as the elimination of all aquatic invasive plants from the walk-over bridge to the spillway.**
- **Commission endorsed an application of the Pequonnock River Initiative and the Trumbull Conservation Commission for funding to install a demonstration of river-edge buffer design and construction in Old Mine Park.**

**Parlor Rock Historic Amusement Area** ( 2.5 acres)

Historic site.

- **The Rail Trails Program over the historic rail bed from Bridgeport to Newtown is constructed contiguous with Parlor Rock Park with a small “rest area” within the Park area to facilitate users of the Rail Trails.**

**Pequonnock River Valley Park/Rails to Trails:**

In conjunction with the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency which includes Trumbull, grants have been obtained from the State to develop the Rails to Trails path from Bridgeport, through Trumbull, and through Monroe to Newtown as a part of a national program to utilize historic railroad beds as walk ways and bicycle paths. The trail is now open from the Helen Plumb Building in Trumbull Center all the way to Monroe and is used daily by hundreds of walkers and bikers and many more on weekends. The Rail Trail through the Pequonnock River Valley is a marvelous addition to Trumbull woodland park system.

- **The Historical Society held a Valley Hike in October beginning at the Park Street Commuter Parking Lot and terminating at Indian Ledge Park. Historic sites were pointed out along the trail such as Tait Paper Mill, Black Pool, Rail Road Rotating wall, Plane Crash site and the Radcliffe Knitting Mill location.**
- **We stabilized the high volume use on the white trail in the Pequonnock River Park. We continue to improve clearing of all trails in the valley from tree falls and obstructions to keep the trails open and safe to the public.**
- **Rail Trail does bring and requires work for our Department. Tree falls at least once or twice a week and the path sides need now to be included in our clearing schedule as well as removal of leaves from the path.**

**Gunther Park (Pondview Pond Park)(1.3 acres)**

Small “vest pocket” park renamed in honor of past Park Commissioner Carl Gunther.  
Wildlife pond  
Park benches

**Strawberry Brook Estates (4.4 acres)**

Developer donated greenbelt.

**Spring Hill Road Little League ball field. (2+/- acres)**

- **Future expansion of the plateau is planned.**

**Tashua Recreation Area (19.3 acres)**

Presently this community park contains an open to the public 18 hole golf course and a 9-hole golf course with public clubhouse and restaurant.

The Town retained 20 acres for Town use which includes:

Regulation size Swimming Pool

Kiddy Pool, with cover

Tot Lot Playground

Lighted Tennis Courts

Lighted Basketball Courts

**Twin Brooks Park (83.2 acres)**

Natural Swimming Area

Multi-Purpose field

Ecology/Nature Ponds

Memorial Walkway Planting Area

Sledding Hill

Covered Pavilions (one small, one large)

Lavatory Facility

Hiking Trails

Wildflower fields

Covered Bridge

Is contiguous with the Vietnam Memorial Park which is maintained by the Park Department in conjunction with the Beautification Commission.

- **Twin Brooks began giving us a problem over 13 years ago and was eventually completely closed for swimming.**
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- **Jr. Woman's Club conclude their annual Tidy Up Trumbull week at this location.**
- **Rotary Club conducts its very successful annual Sunset Run at Twin Brooks Park in July.**
- **Heavy rains continue to play havoc with Twin Brooks Park. Roadway closed during flooding events. We had heavy flooding in the spring season.**
- **The Nature Commission presented a conceptual design for a new proposed 5,000 square foot facility for a combined Trumbull Nature and Arts Center and Park Rangers Facility on the eastern side of Twin Brooks Park. The Commission continues to explore locations and feasibility for such a facility within the parks system which is for residents of the town keeping in mind building construction and then major dollars for long-term maintenance and operational costs.**

**Unity Park** (35.1 acres) Combines contiguous Buffer Zone D'Addario Parcel (4.1 acres) and **Total (41.0 acres)** the Aldo Parcel (7.8 acres).

Little League and Babe Ruth League ball fields, *including two lighted fields.*

Ice Skating Ponds

Sledding Hill

Tennis Courts

Tennis Backboard

Volley Ball Courts

Horseshoe Courts

Lavatory Facility

Tennis Courts

- **The Trumbull Little League sponsored Donna Festa Softball Tournament was held in September.**
- **Babe Ruth League was given approval to construct a Batting Cage at the Babe Ruth Field with a location to be back-to back with the current Little League batting cage.**

#### **BALL FIELDS:**

**Field Maintenance:** There continues to be a need for a seasonal window of opportunity for the Parks Department to complete maintenance of facilities. The three season play and tournaments leave no opportunity to close down field areas to complete necessary rehabilitation.

- **The Park Superintendent began a master-maintenance program for closing down specific fields for periods of time to accomplish appropriate maintenance. During those periods, no play will be allowed. When scheduling end-of-season tournaments, designated maintenance closures will be taken into consideration.**
- **Standing rule for Rangers is to channel foot ball play from restricted fields to an alternate field within the same park if possible.**
- **Reasons for closing specific fields at times is maintenance and safety.**
- **The Commission has maintained the current procedure for closing fields by Rangers or Superintendent making an early morning weather and field conditions determination with leagues having the authority to change the call if these conditions have altered by the time of play; however, with resident pick-up games the only determination is the one made by the Rangers or Superintendent and whenever possible offering another field which may be available.**
- **The Park Commission passed the new Field Use Policy for scheduling of all fields, both Town and Board of Education fields. Core groups will complete only their own scheduling, all other scheduling will be through the Recreation Department. Practices will only be scheduled on skinned fields.**

**POOLS:**

**Budget now reflects a higher cost for pool operations to cover product and Health Code requirements.**

**RANGER STATION:**

- **Town's administration opened discussion with the Park Commission on an idea which has come forward to combine the current Park Ranger Facility (approximately one or two acres currently on White Plains Road contiguous with Unity Park) with the Nature Center Facility (12 acres commercial property on upper Main Street) into one newly constructed facility within the park system.**

**The Park Commission agreed with the proposal in concept and principal; however, no central location has been approved within the parks system.**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:**

Responsibilities fall to the Parks Department in conjunction with the Public Works Department although not within parks, and the Nature/Arts Center is one of these.

Trash in parks: We have experienced a greatly increased garbage problem in our parks. User Groups have been requested to remove whatever is brought in, whether by private haulers or by the Leagues. We experience household waste in dumpsters as well. The Commission requires daily trash pick-up at fields by league volunteers or by private contractors.

- **The Park Commission accepted a donation of an historic barn from Unity Hill Church at 364 White Plains Road to be dissembled, removed from the Church property, stroed and reassembled at a later date within the park system.**

**TENNIS COURTS:**

Our tennis courts rehabilitation project brought courts back into condition. Prescribed maintenance keeps them in warranty.

**WAGNER PARCEL – NATURE COMMISSION**

The Nature Commission utilizes woodland trails for spring and summer programs,



**GREENS:**

Our Department's assignments in conjunction with highway duties this time of year include both leaf collection and snow removal. Snow removal is repetitious and continues to increase with the addition of facilities, parking areas, sidewalks and safe walks. We now have over 11 miles of sidewalks which we monitor during leaf and snow season.

- **Leaf Collection completed throughout the parks system including ball fields, play fields, etc.**
- **We continue to reduce labor assignments in season by establishing "no-mow" zones with bulb plantings.**
- **All historic cemeteries are groomed and maintained by the Park Department. The beautiful planting areas within our park system as well as on municipal greens are prepared and maintained by our Department. We are very pleased to be able to boast beautiful playing fields and parks which are maintained in a healthful and safe manner.**
- **The Park Commission endorsed a proposal by The Trumbull Land Trust for transferring their 40 plus acres of open space property in perpetuity to the Town to be preserved and maintained forever in its natural, scenic state, open and free of development. They would work together with the Nature Commission to maintain these properties. Once a legal review and environmental studies of all parcels are completed, they will refer their proposal to the Town Council for its consideration and approval.**

**Our Facilities User Policy for Trumbull Parks** continues covering all events, tournaments, organizations is now in place which requires all users to meet the conditions of the policy in order to utilize Trumbull Park Facilities.

1. Criminal Background Checks. Per Town policy dated March 27, 2007, all organizations need to be in compliance.
  2. Insurance Certificates. All organizations need to provide the Finance Department with a Certificate of Insurance with general liability coverage in a minimum amount of \$1million/\$3million, naming the Town of Trumbull as an additional insured.
  3. Financial Disclosure. Not overly burdensome on an organization to require that the organization maintain good, organized books and that such books shall be available for inspection by the Town.
- The policy includes that when, in the opinion of the Town of Trumbull, any aspect of the agreement between the parties requires financial audit or other auditing or appraisal, representatives designated by the Town of Trumbull shall have the right to examine and copy all writings relating to the agreement with the Town in the possession or control of the organization, and the organization agrees to make such writings available to the Town at reasonable times for said purposes. Our policy includes federal and state reporting requirements as follows:
  - It is the expectation of the Town of Trumbull Parks Commission that all outside nonprofit organizations permitted to use Town facilities are in compliance with federal and state reporting requirements. In the event that noncompliance with these regulatory requirements is brought to the attention of the Town, the Town Parks Commission reserves the right to suspend the organization's use of facilities until evidence of subsequent compliance is provided."

- **Improvement to Town Property:** It is necessary for organization to agree to the following:
  - The Park Commission's review of the proposed plans and formal vote to approve any construction.
  - The organization is responsible for filing the 8-24 application which needs to be made to the Planning and Zoning Commission;
  - Any building constructed on town property belongs to the Town of Trumbull. Construction must be in accordance with Town requirements and a surety bond for completion and payment needs to be filed with the Town before any construction commences.

**The 2011 Field Use Policy was approved by the Board of Education, Recreation Commission and Park Commission to begin implementation in Fiscal 2011-2012 to meet the increasing demand for field use by organized sports organizations which provides:**

- **A fees structure for using the fields**
- **Allows for field maintenance with increase field "down time".**
- **Provide clear guidelines, universal application procedure for group assignment and scheduling procedure.**

**PARK STICKER DISTRIBUTION:**

**Current stickers continue in place for this year.**

**GENERAL:**

Each successive year, in addition to routine maintenance, we enhance our facilities in a variety of ways, sometimes extensive projects and often as simple as planting a wild flower field. We have created a strong, positive and diverse long-range development of our park system.

We are particularly pleased with our Park Ranger group student programs which provide nature and environmental study for close to 5,000 students each year. Classes are conducted at the Ranger Station as well as in the schools and in our woodland parks. Rangers have been designated as First Responders and will be trained as MRT (Medical Response Technicians).

Our Park Commissioners share the great pride our residents have in our park system and work in a close team effort to serve in this capacity.

Robert R. Ferrigno, Chairman  
Kevin Bellows, Vice Chairman

Anthony Chmielewski  
Diane Mayo

Joseph DeSabia

Kenneth Martin  
Vincent Lipinski

Dmitri Paris, Park Superintendent  
Robert Hawley, Chief Park Ranger